

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT  
U.S. Patent Application No. 09/977,589

encoder retains the following initial magnetic characteristics when measured at a point  
2.0 mm distant from the magnetized encoder:

- 92/054
- \* Single pitch deviation:  $\pm 2\%$  or less and
  - \* Magnetic flux density:  $\pm 3$  mT or higher.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please enter the following amended claims:

- a3
- 88/61
1. (Amended) A wheel bearing assembly which comprises:
- an inner member;
  - an outer member;
  - at least one circumferential row of rolling elements rollingly interposed between the inner and outer members;
  - a sealing device for sealing an annular end space defined between the inner and outer members; and
  - a magnetized encoder mounted on one of the inner and outer members which serves as a rotary member and including an elastic member made of a base material mixed with a powder of magnetic material, said elastic member being bonded by vulcanization to the magnetized encoder and having a series of alternating magnetic poles of opposite polarities formed in a direction circumferentially of the rotary member;
- wherein under a thermal endurance test condition in which the magnetized encoder is subjected to 1,000 thermal cycles each consisting of heating at 120°C for one

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hour followed by cooling at  $-40^{\circ}\text{C}$  for one hour, the magnetized encoder retains the following initial magnetic characteristics when measured at a point 2.0 mm distant from the magnetized encoder: :

Single pitch deviation:  $\pm 2\%$  or less and

Magnetic flux density:  $\pm 3 \text{ mT}$  or higher.

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A3  
cont